

1902

Watchet Urban Council. M. V. H's Report. H. C. Linder

Population estimated in 1901. 1887
 Area 700 Acres
 Birth Rate per 1000 living 25.8
 Death Rate " " 13.1
 Zymotic Rate " " 2.2
 Infantile Mortality per 1000 births 104.8

Geology - At the Cliffs large quantities of limestone and Gypsum are obtained that after being used largely in the manufacture of paper at the Mills; in the surrounding neighbourhood there is also clay & marl but in Watchet there are beds of water carrying gravel.

Occupation mainly Paper Mills, Flour Mills, Saw Mills and Hallow; the Harbour which was destroyed in 1900 is now about to be re-constructed the loss of which has been severely felt as there was a large trade with Wales & Ireland & even the Continent which has fallen off owing to the dangerous condition of the harbour.

Water Supply - There is a good & sufficient supply from a private company except during dry seasons when it is cut off in the evenings but an unlimited supply could be obtained in the event of the town increasing and at a moderate cost.

Sewerage and drainage & sewerage disposal. A sewerage and drainage scheme has been before the Local Government Board and a Local Government Board inquiry was held at Watchet on Jan. 30. 1902. and although the drains are not everything that could be desired being old masonry ones yet during my term of office there have been no cases directly traceable to drainage & the town is a healthy one and compares favourably with others similarly situated. The scavenging in Watchet is not carried out as it should be especially in West Street. The ash pits generally are in a bad condition and don't come up to the

Local Government Board Requirements especially those at Almshouse Terrace being without covers & in a dilapidated condition in many instances the brick walls having fallen down. - I have repeatedly drawn attention to them but nothing has been done.

Prevalence of Diseases & Notification. 39 Cases notified - Scarlet Fever 33; Diphtheria 1; Membranous Croup 4; Erysipelas 1. An outbreak of Scarlet Fever occurred in November which necessitated the closing of the schools due to carelessness on the part of parents in neglecting to take proper precautions in exposing infected children and sending them to school. There was a slight outbreak in the latter end of 1901 & beginning of 1902 but of a mild type & not so severe as the present epidemic. There were three deaths caused by Scarlet Fever all in children under 5 years of age; Membranous Croup 1; Diarrhoea 1; Enteritis 2; Bronchitis 4; Acute Laryngitis 1; Heart disease 1. Peritonitis 1. Hemiplegia 1. Biliary obstruction 1; Feething and Convulsions 2; Mollities Cerebri 3; Chronic Ophthalmia 1. Pneumonia 1; Smile Decay 3 in all 26 in the Watchet Urban District & a native of Watchet died in the Trillick Union.

Isolation Hospital, Disinfection. Although some parents are careful and endeavour to do their best to isolate but owing often to large families and lack of accommodation isolation is at the best very imperfectly carried out; on the other hand some parents are exceedingly careless and absolutely indifferent to their moral & legal obligation to the public in preventing the spread of infectious diseases and all one can do ~~is to provide~~ in the absence of proper Isolation Hospital is to provide them with disinfectants & fumigate with Sulphur at the end of the illness. A good heat-disinfecter whereby all clothes, bedding etc could be thoroughly disinfected would be of great service especially

is a highly infectious disease like Scarlet Fever.
Dairies, Butcheries, & Slaughter House have been
inspected & found satisfactory.

Housing of the Working Classes are above the average
in size and accommodation to most country districts
with a few exceptions.

Inspector of Nuisances Report. None.

Henry C. Liden
M. C. H.

Watchet Urban District
